



The President's Daily Brief

November 3, 1976

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CHINA: *The Chinese leadership yesterday issued an "announcement" designed to reassure both domestic and foreign audiences that there will be no sudden break in Chinese policies at home or abroad.*

The "announcement"--an unusual form of communication--is the regime's first authoritative pronouncement on domestic and international affairs. Issued in the name of the party Central Committee, the standing committee of the National People's Congress (the Chinese legislative body), the state council and the party's military affairs commission, the statement is ostensibly a message of thanks to foreign individuals and organizations which offered expressions of sympathy to China on the passing of Mao Tse-tung.

On the domestic front the "announcement" may be meant to reassure those in China who sympathized with the ideological position of the fallen leftists that, despite the fact that the current Chinese leadership is now composed of "centrist" and rightist civilians and of important military men, the Maoist vision of a revolutionary society will not be abandoned. Perhaps significantly, there is no reference to the need to preserve "new socialist things," a catch-phrase used by the deposed leftists to emphasize the policies and organizational forms spawned by the Cultural Revolution, nor is there any mention of the leftist-inspired campaign to criticize former vice premier Teng Hsiao-ping.

In the international sphere, the statement stresses that China's current foreign policy was "personally laid down" by the late Chairman and strongly implies that this policy is immutable.

This section seems designed to put to rest speculation that Chinese policy toward the Soviet Union is subject to change now that Mao is dead and the leftists have been eliminated from the leadership.

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The "announcement" also states that China will "unite with all the genuine Marxist-Leninist parties and organizations the world over and carry the struggle against modern revisionism"--read the USSR--"through to the end." This reference may in fact signal that Peking is prepared to resume its paternal relationship to the various so-called Marxist-Leninist groups that Peking organized in the early 1960s as a means of countering Soviet international influence. In 1971 China largely abandoned its position of patron to these non-ruling parties, recognizing that they were for the most part ineffective and perhaps more trouble than they were worth.

If the new Chinese statement does in fact mean a reassessment of the usefulness of these groups, it suggests that the current Chinese leadership may remain somewhat skeptical as to the degree China can rely on the US connection to offset what it sees as worldwide Soviet pressures against Peking. Signs of such skepticism were apparent in the autumn of 1975 and again last summer, when the leftist leaders still retained power.

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LEBANON: President Sarkis and Christian leaders reportedly agreed yesterday on a plan that would allow Christian soldiers from the regular Lebanese army to serve in the Arab League peace-keeping force and to patrol the Christian side of the major confrontation lines.

The plan is intended to appease Christian militia leaders who oppose the movement of Muslim peace-keeping troops into Christian territory. Arab League mediator Hasan Sabri al-Khuli refused to reveal specifics of the plan to the press or the number of regular army troops that will participate in the deterrent force.



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The Christian contingent would presumably be directly responsible to Sarkis rather than to other Christian leaders and would be drawn from those who have had the least involvement in the conflict.

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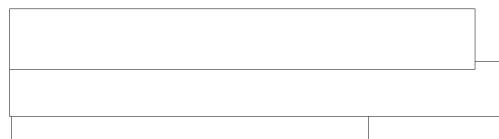
Leftist chief Kamal Jumblatt and Muslim leaders will object strongly to any arrangement that subjects them to policing by the Syrians and other Arabs while the Christians, in effect, monitor themselves.

Militants like Jumblatt will almost certainly accuse Sarkis of caving into the demands of his fellow Christians, and they may try to use the issue as a pretext for breaking their already tenuous commitment to the cease-fire. The Beirut press speculated yesterday that some Lebanese Muslim forces might be allowed to join the peace-keeping force to create the appearance of evenhandedness.

The Saudi and Sudanese contingents that will augment the Arab League force reportedly arrived in Damascus on Monday, and some of their troops may have reached Lebanon yesterday.



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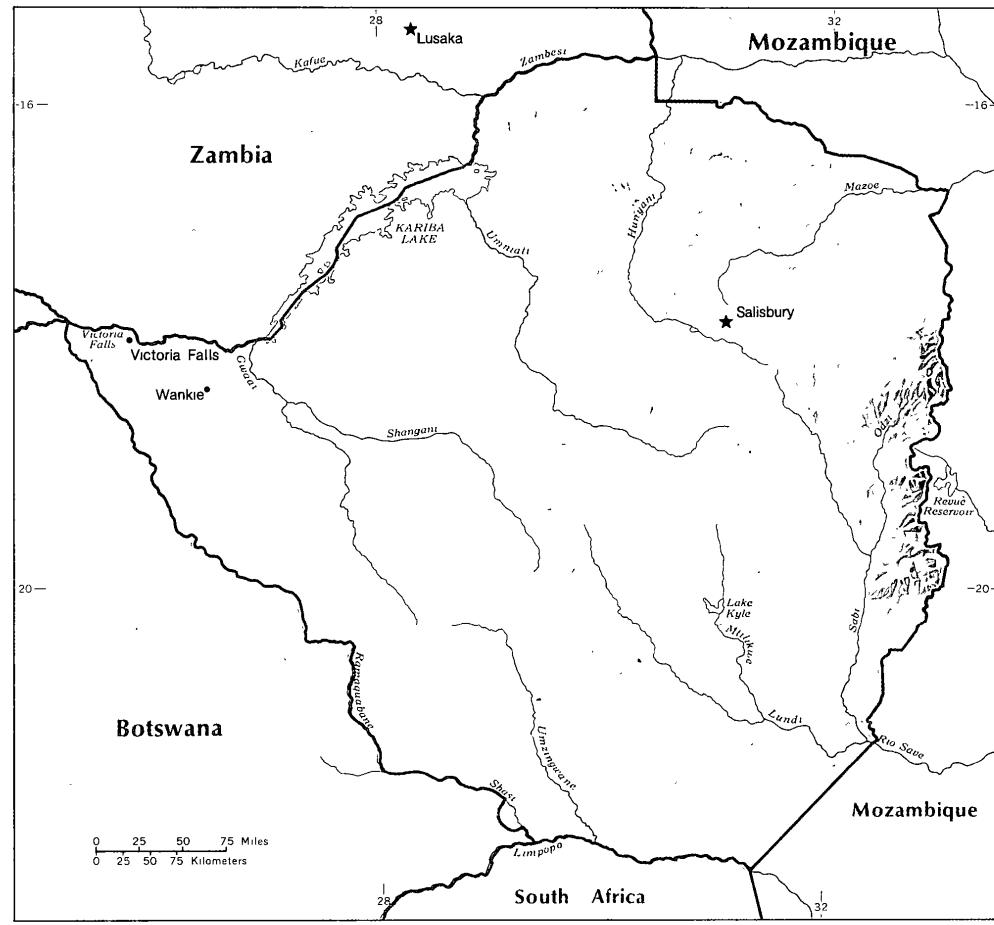
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Rhodesia



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◆ RHODESIA-MOZAMBIQUE:



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On Monday night, a small band of guerrillas attacked a hotel in Wankie, according to a government communique, killing one black civilian and wounding two others. This was the second attack on a hotel in western Rhodesia in three days.



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[redacted] figures released by the Salisbury government indicate that casualties on both sides were unusually high last month.

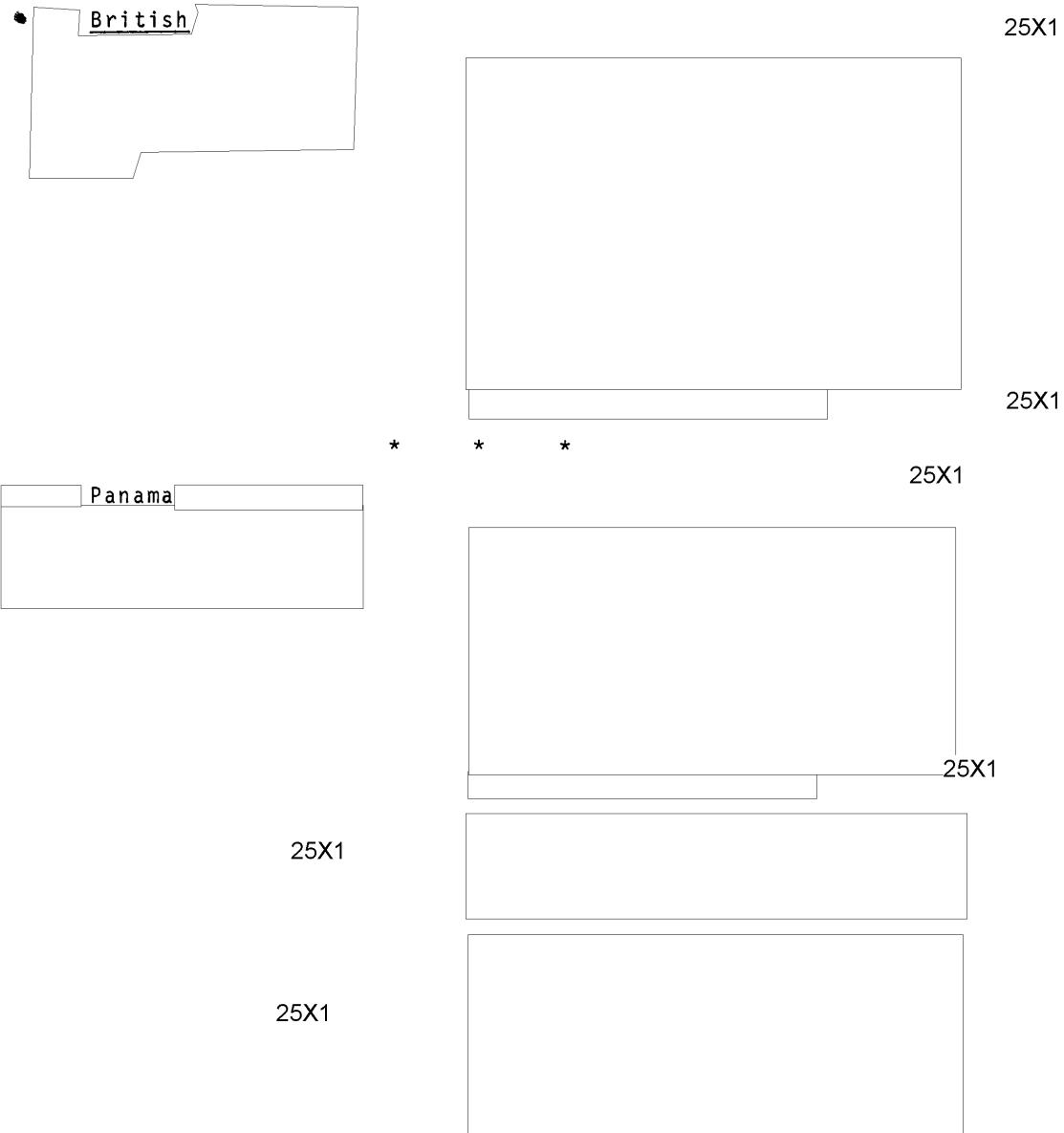
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■ Indian Prime Minister
Indira Gandhi's government yesterday was formally given broad new powers by the lower house of parliament.

A new constitutional amendment unequivocally establishes the prime minister as the supreme authority in the government and incorporates a number of repressive measures that have been in effect since Gandhi imposed a national emergency in June 1975. The amendment curtails the power of the judiciary to challenge legislative and executive actions and to safeguard civil liberties. Gandhi is authorized to make additional constitutional changes during the next two years to remove any "difficulties" that stand in the way of implementing the new amendment.

The upper house and at least half the 22 state governments must also agree to the amendment, but the Congress Party's majority in the upper house and its control of most state governments make these steps largely a formality.

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■ The Burundi armed forces have reportedly established a 29-man Supreme Revolutionary Council, assisted by an executive committee, to run the country following the ouster of President Micombero and his government on Monday.

The council is headed by Colonel Jean Bagaza, who apparently led the coup.

US observers have considered Colonel Bagaza friendly but of modest ability. He has served as deputy chief of staff since 1972 and reportedly is a cousin of the deposed president.

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North Korea continues to increase its fleet of attack submarines, which now totals 14 with at least 10 of them operational. Four more are believed to be under construction.

The submarines provide the North Koreans with a limited but growing ability to intercept shipping off the Korean peninsula and add to their anti-submarine warfare and coastal defense capabilities.

The North Koreans, with Chinese help, are producing R-class submarines and have been given four W-class submarines by the USSR.

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